

# RETAILERS TO KEEP EYE OUT FOR COOKERS

Efforts are now underway to begin phase two of the Michigan Methamphetamine Public Awareness and Education Campaign. Entitled "Michigan Meth Watch," Michigan retailers and their employees will be asked to serve as the front line of defense for deterring the purchase and theft of the precursors used to cook methamphetamine. The campaign is being largely funded by the Michigan Office of Drug Control Policy.

Michigan Meth Watch is designed to limit easy access to methamphetamine precursors on store shelves, prevent theft and large purchases of products containing pseudoephedrine (a main ingredient used in

the meth cooking process) and to protect Michigan retailers and employees from unwillingly becoming a "community supplier" in a drug manufacturing pipeline.



The Michigan Meth Watch Program will supply Michigan retailers and pharmacies with window decals, shelf stickers, cash register stickers and other public awareness pieces announcing they are participating in the Michigan Meth Watch Program. In addition, employees will be trained on what suspicious behavior and purchases to look for.

Retailers wishing additional Meth Watch information should email the Office of Drug Control Policy, [MiMethWatch@michigan.gov](mailto:MiMethWatch@michigan.gov), or visit the ODCP web site, [www.michigan.gov/meth](http://www.michigan.gov/meth).

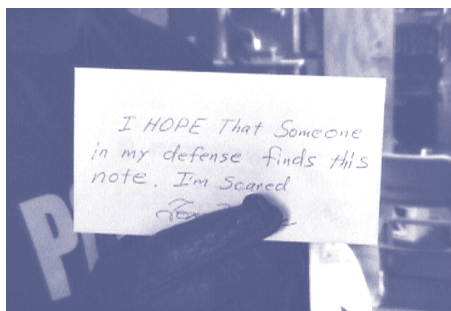
## CHILDREN FOUND AT EXTREME RISK

Sadly, many Michigan children are forced to live in dangerous drug environments, including methamphetamine. Authorities are now combining their resources and concentrating their efforts to protect these endangered children who are becoming exposed to serious physical, health and emotional harm.

In a training session sponsored by the Office of Drug Control Policy, Michigan Department of Community Health, Michigan High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area and the Michigan State Police, representatives from law enforcement, child welfare, substance abuse prevention and treatment, schools, the medical professions and the court system received information on how to develop protocol for protecting drug-endangered children; especially those exposed to methamphetamine.

Children in a methamphetamine environment are especially at risk because they are living in a highly hazardous environment prone to explosions, fires, and toxic chemical contamination. These same children also may encounter serious health risks that may range from cancer, burns, sores, neurological damage, asthma, lung damage and other medical conditions due to nutrition and hygiene neglect.

Reports show that methamphetamine-endangered children can also experience a higher degree of mental, physical and sexual



abuse. They are exposed to an environment of guns, violence and highly dangerous and undesirable cooks, users and abusers.

Currently, authorities are looking at the Drug Endangered Children (DEC) training and educational program. The DEC protocol combines law enforcement, social services, medical personnel and prosecutors in a multijurisdictional approach to stop this form of abuse. DEC training and protocol places the importance of providing for the immediate health and safety of children at a drug scene, followed by the preservation of child abuse crime scene evidence, and then aggressive prosecution of the abusing parents. DEC places a high emphasis on sharing case and investigation information, child interviewing techniques, and case coordination designed to safely remove and provide treatment to methamphetamine-endangered children.

**Formula for Disaster**  
**METHAMPHETAMINE**

## FUNDING FOR PREVENTION

The Office of Drug Control Policy, Michigan Department of Community Health, has received a 3-year federal grant for methamphetamine prevention in Michigan. The grant, awarded by the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, will provide funding for regional prevention infrastructure and programming in Allegan, Barry, Branch, Berrien, Calhoun, Cass, Clinton, Eaton, Gratiot, Hillsdale, Ingham, Jackson, Kent, Kalamazoo, Lenawee, Muskegon, Ottawa, St. Joseph and Van Buren Counties. In addition, various trainings on methamphetamine will be provided for prevention professionals statewide.

# 1,231

Number of children found  
exposed to toxic chemicals  
during meth lab-related incidents  
in the United States in 2003

Drug Enforcement Administration,  
El Paso Intelligence Center

# Formula for Disaster METHAMPHETAMINE

**UNLIKE MOST STREET DRUGS, THE EFFECTS OF METHAMPHETAMINE REACH DEEPER INTO THE COMMUNITY, WITH GREATER IMPACT.**

## TWEAKERS CAN BE VIOLENT WARNING

Individuals who abuse methamphetamine are known as “tweakers.” They are highly unpredictable and can become extremely violent.

What should you do if you encounter someone who is tweaking?

- **Talk slowly, clearly & continuously in a non-threatening manner**
- **Stand-still at first face-to-face contact**
- **Keep a distance of 7 to 10 feet**
- **Keep your hands in front of you (any movement can be interpreted as a sign of aggression)**
- **Slowly walk while backing out, maintaining eye contact until you are safely away from harm**

If encountering a tweaker it is best to back off and immediately call the authorities.

Never has Michigan been faced with a more deadly and dangerous drug, with such far-reaching impact on the community, than methamphetamine. From issues of personal danger, health, environment, safety, prosecution, treatment and recovery, methamphetamine touches everyone in the community.

Unlike most illegal drugs that are imported into a community, methamphetamine is easily manufactured (cooked) using common household chemicals and ingredients found in local retail stores. Cooking operations are makeshift, clandestine labs and can pop up anywhere in the community.

The safety of first responders; the health and safety of children; the contamination of property, furnishings, soils, ground water and drinking water; the demands placed on community prevention, treatment, health and judicial systems and the devastating and self destructive habits of methamphetamine cooks and abusers are challenges that communities across Michigan must face.

### Agricultural

As a member of Michigan's agricultural community, you have what the methamphetamine cooks need-anhydrous ammonia. Anhydrous ammonia is a key ingredient used in the manufacturing of methamphetamine and is stolen from field tanks and distribution outlets. Cookers are known to steal small quantities of anhydrous ammonia using plastic gas cans, propane grill tanks, or other crude and elementary containers. They have even stolen complete field tanks!



As a farmer or fertilizer dealer you are encouraged to keep tanks locked and in a well-lit and secure area. Look for acts of tampering including loose valves, leaks, discarded buckets, coolers, duct tape, garden hoses and bicycle inner tubes.

## METHAMPHETAMINE



### Retail

Everything cooks need to produce methamphetamine can be found in most retail, pharmacy, or hardware stores.

Michigan retailers serve as a first line of defense by removing easy shelf access to products like those containing pseudoephedrine; provide heightened security measures to prevent the theft of precursors; and limiting the sale of unusual amounts and repeat purchases of precursors. In addition, employees should be trained on how to report suspicious purchases. Not every purchase of lithium batteries, drain cleaner, acetone, sulfuric acid, paint

**Report Meth Activities 1-866-METH-TIP**

thinner, starter fluid, camping fuel, or toluene, to name a few precursors, implicates a meth cooker. However, unusually large and repeated purchases of these products do—especially ones with pseudoephedrine.

## First Responders

Stumbling across a methamphetamine lab can spell instant health and safety danger for any first responder. Law enforcement officers, fire fighters and paramedics can be immediately exposed to serious health problems including chemical burns, collapsed lungs and other serious injuries resulting from chemical explosions, fires and toxic exposure—all common dangers associated with methamphetamine cooking sites.

## Social Workers

Child welfare, probation officers and community health workers can also find themselves on the front lines of the methamphetamine problem. Just like first responders, social workers are also at risk from accidentally encountering a

readers, code inspectors, postal, delivery personnel and utility workers. Because clandestine meth labs can show up in any house, garage, out building, trailer, car or van—in rural or urban settings—community workers are at risk of becoming exposed to the same methamphetamine dangers as first responders and social workers. Municipal workers should be on the lookout for boarded structures, rooms or windows; ventilation hoses and fans; strong/strange odors; suspicious chemicals laying around; and trash containing coffee filters, lithium batteries, acetone containers, or empty cold tablet packages once containing pseudoephedrine, or iodine and lye packages.



## Mobile Home Park Owners and Managers

Just the close proximity of mobile homes in a park can spell disaster when a clandestine methamphetamine lab exists. Dangerous fumes, explosions, fires and toxic contamination puts everyone living nearby in serious jeopardy. But this same close proximity can safeguard a mobile home community from the devastating effects of methamphetamine because detection should be easy.

## Hotel/Motel Owners and Operators

The personal safety of guests, costly clean-up of contaminated rooms and furnishings and loss due to explosions and fires mandates that all Michigan motel and hotel owners and operators train employees on spotting and reporting methamphetamine activities. And don't be fooled, meth labs don't distinguish between chain-owned inns or Mom and Pop operations. Meth labs can pop up any time an opportunity exists, and the results are disastrous. Employees should look for guests checking in with boxes of hardware components instead of luggage; guests carrying in propane grill tanks, gas cans, tubing, glass jars and coolers; guests reluctant to have housekeeping enter; unusual traffic; and discarded trash containing coffee filters, lithium batteries, acetone containers, empty cold tablet packages once containing pseudoephedrine, or iodine and lye packages.

methamphetamine scene. Aside from protecting themselves from personal safety and health dangers, social workers can also protect the community from the dangerous effects of methamphetamine. Providing a valuable role in protecting the community, especially children exposed to methamphetamine, social workers should look for and immediately report any suspicious activities that signal methamphetamine cooking or use, especially when children are involved.



## Municipal and Utility Workers

Who gets into more backyards, basements, or buildings in the community? Meter

## Home and Rental Property Owners and Operators

Buying property or owning rental property in Michigan is a major investment. Having that property associated with methamphetamine activities can render the property useless, with owners paying to have a toxic waste site cleaned up! The methamphetamine cooking process produces highly toxic waste that quickly contaminates houses, structures, furnishings, ground water and soils. In addition, the atmosphere surrounding a methamphetamine cooking operation is highly explosive, subject to chemical explosions and fires. Owners and property managers should look for boarded up rooms or windows; ventilation hoses or fans; strong/strange odors; numerous gas cans, propane grill tanks, tubing, glass jars and coolers; unusual traffic at all hours of the day and night; and excess trash containing coffee filters, batteries, acetone containers, empty cold tablet packages once containing pseudoephedrine, or iodine and lye packages.

# 6%

Meth has the  
lowest recovery rate  
of all addictive drugs.

More information located at [www.michigan.gov/meth](http://www.michigan.gov/meth)